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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The General Assembly, by its resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, and to report annually on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The present report describes developments since the adoption of the resolution in intergovernmental forums and by the organizations of the United Nations system, indicating that the momentum generated by the Conference is continuing. It also describes factors related to the capacity of the United Nations system in terms of human and financial requirements and proposes a number of possible additional steps.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 50/203 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of 22 December 1995, requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements. It further requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. At the time the resolution was adopted, Member States were informed that the Secretariat would consider that the requested reports should be provided on a rolling basis: the report to the Commission would contain early material, the report to the Council would summarize these and add new material, including the results of the Commission itself, and the report to the General Assembly would add further material, including the results of the Council's deliberations. Because of their close relationship and to expedite processing and consideration, the Secretary-General has combined the two requested reports into a single report.

3. An initial report was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session on ways and means to enhance the capacity of the Organization and the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/1996/3) as well as on the mandate, methods of work and multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women as part of its consideration of follow-up to the Conference (E/CN.6/1996/2). A further report was presented to the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/82) indicating developments relating to implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action in intergovernmental forums reporting to the Council and among the organizations of the United Nations system, on an inter-agency basis, reflecting the steps taken to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way.

II. PROGRESS IN MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

4. The Beijing Declaration states in its final paragraph that: "We hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the following Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all our policies and programmes." 1/ In its resolution 50/203, the General Assembly called upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform.

5. The first step in implementing this commitment at the international level is for intergovernmental forums and the secretariats and programmes that they oversee to adopt policies and programmatic guidelines for mainstreaming as a key aspect of implementing the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. As will be shown below, most of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system have taken these initial steps, as have most of the secretariats and programmes of the system.

6. However, it will be important over the next year for further steps to be taken to elaborate the concept of mainstreaming a gender perspective and its practical implications and requirements. The present report begins with an initial exploration of these practical implications, based on the experience accumulated by the Secretariat in the preparations for the Beijing Conference and subsequent reflections in the context of preparing for follow-up.

A. Mainstreaming a gender perspective

7. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is a leitmotif of the Platform for Action. While there is a general understanding of what is meant by a gender perspective, no effort was made to articulate its concept and practical implications in detail in the period leading up to the Beijing Conference. An important step in implementing the commitments to mainstreaming a gender perspective is to translate the concept into practical action.

8. A perspective is a way of looking at something. A gender perspective is a method of thinking, of conceptualizing, a cognitive structure that enables policies and programmes to be designed, assessed, monitored and evaluated in terms of their relative implications for women and men, in contribution and in impact.

9. As a starting point, in United Nations usage, 2/ gender refers to the socially constructed roles played by women and men that are ascribed to them on the basis of their sex. Gender analysis is done in order to examine similarities and differences in roles and responsibilities between women and men without direct reference to biology, but rather to the behaviour patterns expected from women and men and their cultural reinforcement. These roles are usually specific to a given area and time, that is, since gender roles are contingent on the social and economic context, they can vary according to the specific context and can change over time. In terms of the use of language, the word "sex" is used to refer to physical and biological characteristics of women and men, while gender is used to refer to the explanations for observed differences between women and men based on socially assigned roles.

10. Gender analysis as part of the application of a gender perspective moves the analysis beyond a focus on women as an isolated group, and to the consideration of an issue and its relationship to men and women. Such an approach allows that advantages and disadvantages experienced by either group can be made visible, and for steps to be taken to address disadvantages with a view to preventing or eliminating and redressing them.

11. There is a need to be aware that gender may be significant in the understanding of an issue or situation and its policy and programmatic implications so that responses to problems can be carefully tailored. A failure to be aware of the relevance of gender can lead to an incomplete assessment of the issue at hand, and to the overlooking or underestimating of problem dimensions linked to, or caused by, gender.

12. By being aware of the way in which gender has an impact on the enjoyment of rights, on equal access to opportunities and resources, to participation in decision-making at all levels, to benefits, and other goods and services offered in societal settings (be it at the family, community or State level), the full range of obstacles connected with gender roles can more readily be revealed and intervention strategies devised.

13. While a gender perspective is primarily an approach requiring a reconceptualization of the way things are looked at, a number of practical implications for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective (which, as the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action state, is to be reflected in all policies and programmes) result therefrom. First and foremost, it requires that people are made familiar with, and are given the tools, including training, to apply it in research, analysis, programme and policy development, and decision-making. It is essential that a gender perspective be applied to all these steps since analysis based on data disaggregated by sex will not bring about change if they are ignored in the development of policy options. Likewise, decisions cannot be gender-sensitive if the underlying analysis does not take gender factors into account.

14. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in programming and policy-making would therefore appear to involve a series of steps, which could be summarized as follows:

(1) Issues should be defined in such a fashion that gender differences can be observed. In preparing texts for discussion, an assumption of gender-neutrality should not be made, but rather the issues should be examined, prima facie, for aspects where gender factors could potentially be important.

(2) The next step is to observe and diagnose differences between women and men and the factors associated with these differences. For each factor in a given issue area, a comparison is made between the situation of women and that of men. If there is no difference, it is plausible to assume that for that factor, gender is not significant. If there is a difference, it is necessary to see how it is mediated by other social and economic factors such as age, class, ethnic group or occupational type.

(3) Once these factors are articulated, it is necessary to analyse how the differences are reflected in roles and how the roles are created and reinforced. The result of the analysis should be to identify the specific obstacles to full participation and enjoyment of rights by women, as well as men.

(4) The next step is to see how these roles function in terms of the process of change. This analysis sets the stage to diagnosing how change can be achieved through the definition of policies and programmes. It includes looking at how gender roles are related to programme inputs, and at the process of implementing programmes and the expected outcomes. The examination of inputs needed to elaborate the details of each policy or programme consists of assessing pre-existing conditions, which constitute the baseline for change, as well as appraising the interventions that are expected to change these conditions.

(5) The final step consists of adopting the programmes and policies that can be expected, with a good probability of success, to address the issue in question.

15. A number of United Nations and other international agencies, individually and collectively, have been determining how best in practice to integrate a gender perspective into their policies and programmes. Considerable experience and expertise exist within the United Nations system regarding mainstreaming in operational activities. Work is continuing on developing methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender perspective in reporting under international human rights instruments and mechanisms. At the same time, further work is clearly needed to strengthen the conceptual basis for system-wide mainstreaming of a gender perspective, its incorporation in the day-to-day work of United Nations staff throughout the system, and in intergovernmental action in many areas beyond the social sectors and operational activities. The ACC Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality is expected to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming a gender perspective, to compile existing experience in this regard, and to develop practical proposals and tools in support of system-wide mainstreaming.

B. Mainstreaming follow-up in intergovernmental forums

16. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/203, considered, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action should be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, decided that the Platform for Action needed to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system during the period 1995-2000 and noted that the institutions of the United Nations especially devoted to the advancement of women, including the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), were in the process of reviewing their programmes of work in the light of the Platform for Action and its implementation. During the period since the Conference, many intergovernmental bodies have taken steps to ensure the implementation of the Platform for Action through mainstreaming. These include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. The Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

17. In the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/82), steps taken by subsidiary bodies of the Council, including especially the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, were reported. The report also provided information on UNIFEM and on INSTRAW. Subsequent to the completion of that report, the Commission for Social Development met, and further work was done in the regional commissions and in the context of the Statistical Commission.

18. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1996, under agenda item 5 (e), approved draft resolution E/1996/L.36, on INSTRAW. The Council, in paragraph 2 of the resolution, "Commends the work of the Institute on the issue addressing the process of the economic and political empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; women, natural resources and sustainable development; water, waste management and renewable sources of energy; and issues related to different groups, such as the elderly, displaced, refugees and migrant women".

19. The Council, in its resolution 1996/34 of 25 July 1996, endorsed the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/1996/16), taking into account the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women contained in its resolution 40/10 and annex and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). The Council requested all organizations of the United Nations system to implement the revised plan in the light of the general and specific comments adopted thereon by the Commission on the Status of Women and CPC.

(a) Statistical Commission

20. At its eighteenth session, held in New York from 16 to 19 April 1996, the Working Group of the Statistical Commission considered the report and recommendations of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences (E/CN.3/AC.1/1996/R.4) and agreed that the report should be considered by the Statistical Commission at its next session. The Working Group recommended adoption of the minimum national social data set proposed by the Expert Group (para. 97) as a guide to national statistical services in considering minimum data requirements for monitoring implementation of the programmes of action agreed in the recent major United Nations conferences.

21. The Expert Group identified broad areas of social concern arising from the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. It recommended 15 items for the minimum national social data set to measure progress in implementation of the programmes of action: (a) population estimates by sex, age and, where appropriate and feasible, ethnic group; (b) life expectancy at birth, by sex; (c) infant mortality by sex; (d) child mortality by sex; (e) maternal mortality; (f) percentage of infants weighing less than 2,500 g at birth, by sex; (g) average number of years of schooling completed, by sex, and where possible by income class; (h) gross domestic product (GDP) per capita;

(i) household income per capita (level and distribution); (j) monetary value of the basket of food needed for minimum nutritional requirements; (k) unemployment rate, by sex; (l) employment-population ratio, by sex, and by formal and informal sector where appropriate; (m) access to safe water; (n) access to sanitation; and (o) number of people per room, excluding kitchen and bathroom. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has proposed that the indicator "contraceptive prevalence rate" be included.

22. The Working Group requested the Statistics Division to work with the regional commissions to arrange for pilot studies in each region on the availability and quality of the statistics called for in the minimum national social data set. It also agreed to recommend the formation of an expert group on poverty statistics, chaired by Brazil and with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) serving as the secretariat. ECLAC offered to host a seminar on poverty statistics in Santiago in 1997, focusing on national and regional experiences.

23. At its twenty-ninth session, to be held in New York from 10 to 14 February 1997, the Statistical Commission will consider the recommendations of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences (see para. 20 above) and of the Working Group, in particular adoption of the minimum national social data set. It will also consider a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of case studies in each region on the availability and quality of social statistics and possible sources of funding for these studies.

(b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs

24. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-ninth session, held in April 1996, adopted resolution 8 (XXXIX), in which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council, in its consideration of drug control issues in the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1996, that it endorse the approach adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Drug Control in redesigning the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (E/CN.7/1996/19). The redesigned System-wide Action Plan includes a component on "women and drug abuse: a gender perspective" and was formulated under the guidance of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control with the involvement of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme on Tropical Diseases Research.

(c) Commission for Social Development

25. The Commission for Social Development, at its special session of 1996, adopted a number of resolutions that included mainstreaming a gender perspective. In its draft resolution on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission adopted a multi-year programme of work in which it was stated that the Commission should apply a gender perspective when discussing the different topics under the multi-year programme of work. In its resolution on

the eradication of poverty, the Commission recognized that, since women constituted the majority of people living in poverty, mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes aimed at eradicating poverty and the empowerment of women would be critical factors in the eradication of poverty. It also recognized the central role that women played in the eradication of poverty, and stressed the need for their full and equal participation in the formulation and implementation of policies that took fully into account the gender perspective and that empowered women to be full partners in development.

(d) Committee for Programme and Coordination

26. CPC agreed to ensure, in its examination of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, that the mainstreaming of a gender perspective was reflected in the individual programmes of the medium-term plan. It emphasized the responsibility of programme managers for progress in gender mainstreaming.

(e) Economic Commission for Africa

27. Since the adoption of the African and the global platforms for action, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has elaborated and distributed Guidelines for the Implementation of the African Platform for Action which were endorsed at a meeting of the Bureau of the Fifth Regional Conference on Women in February. The publication stresses gender mainstreaming as the most effective implementation strategy. In April 1996, the African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, the intergovernmental organ charged with the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process, renewed its membership at the regional and subregional levels and developed a strategy for the implementation of its new role. The Eastern and Southern Africa subregions did the same in July, and Central Africa will do likewise in September. Five national reports on the implementation process have been submitted to ECA upon request. Others are awaited.

28. At ECA, four areas of focus have been selected for the next three years: enhancing women's leadership role in public decision-making; economic empowerment of women; promoting women's human and legal rights; and mainstreaming gender and assisting member States in the implementation of the Platforms.

(f) Economic Commission for Europe

29. In decision A(51) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on the work of the Commission and its future activities, the Commission, while recalling the contribution of ECE in preparing global conferences and their programmes of action, in paragraphs 3 and 4:

> "3. Notes the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1342) on the implications of resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council for the work of the Economic Commission for Europe and his note on ECE's contribution and follow-up to United Nations global programmes and conferences (E/ECE/1343) and requests the Executive Secretary to continue the ongoing work in these fields and to consult

member States before taking any new initiatives on the Commission's contribution to forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

"4. Calls on the principal subsidiary bodies to take into account the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, where appropriate, while defining and implementing their work programmes."

Accordingly, any future initiative depends on the outcome of the intergovernmental Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency of ECE.

(g) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

30. ECLAC acts as the technical secretariat of the member countries for the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, whose approval was confirmed at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission held at San José from 15 to 20 April 1996, and which constituted an input for the Beijing Platform for Action. For the follow-up and evaluation process, the Commission has established a permanent organ composed of the regional conference and its presiding officers, which serves as the link with the member countries.

31. The Presiding Officers met on 16 and 17 May 1996. During the second meeting, pursuant to section E, paragraph (b), of the Regional Programme of Action, and bearing in mind the climate of reform and financial constraint in which the United Nations is now operating, the following measures were adopted to provide for follow-up on activities aimed at implementation of the Regional Programme of Action and the Platform for Action:

(a) Reinforcing the activities of the Presiding Officers;

(b) Strengthening the Presiding Officers' liaison function by establishing closer ties with government agencies responsible for women's issues in the countries of the region;

(c) Sending a note through the Chairperson of the Presiding Officers to the ad hoc working group open to all ECLAC member countries that had been created at the previous session of the Commission and was to meet in July, asking it to give priority to the situation of women and to implementation of the Regional Programme of Action;

(d) Adopting the topics that the Commission on the Status of Women has selected as high priorities for the next few years, in order to help ECLAC member and associate member States to be better prepared to participate in international debates;

(e) Maintaining informal contacts with networks of government agencies on women, primarily through the heads of the regional and subregional networks.

32. During the meeting, the Government of Chile offered to host the seventh session of the regional conference, to be held in November 1997. The Presiding Officers were pleased to accept the invitation of Chile.

(h) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

33. At the fifty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in April 1996, resolution 52/3 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women was adopted.

34. A series of expert group meetings and seminars on selected critical areas of concern are being held, as follows: promoting women's participation in decision-making (Bangkok, 18 and 19 December 1995); women's rights/violence against women, Saitama, Japan, August 1996; and strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women, Seoul (September 1996).

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

35. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will submit for consideration and adoption by the first session of the Committee on Social Development (18-20 February 1997) a programme for action for the advancement of Arab women based on the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Arab Plan of Action (1994).

36. An Arab Regional Conference: Beijing Year One for follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, will be convened by the League of Arab States, held jointly with ESCWA, and hosted by the Government of Jordan at Amman, from 25 to 29 September 1996. The intergovernmental meeting will take into consideration the recommendations emanating from the Arab NGO Forum which is being held back-to-back with the intergovernmental meeting. The meeting is expected to formulate a five-year programme for action for the implementation of the Beijing recommendations.

(j) Executive Boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations

37. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) approved the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women at its first regular session in January 1996 (E/ICEF/1996/3). It endorsed UNICEF proposals for providing assistance to Governments in the implementation of the Platform for Action in three areas for priority action: (a) girls' education; (b) health of girls, adolescents and women; and (c) child rights and women's rights. It encouraged UNICEF to strengthen its partnerships, coordination and collaboration with all agencies and entities of the United Nations system, each according to its mandate and its own comparative advantage, and non-governmental organizations which were actively involved in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

2. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system

38. Many of the governing bodies of specialized agencies of the United Nations system have taken specific action related to the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. These include, but are not limited to, the following.

(a) International Labour Organization

39. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO), at its 264th session (November 1995) and 265th session (March 1996), expressed strong interest and support for a dynamic follow-up by ILO to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and approved at its 265th session a proposal for an international programme on women. The Director-General, in his programme guidance letter concerning the preparation of the programme and budget proposals for the biennium 1998-1999, also identified the advancement of women as one of the three priority areas for ILO technical cooperation. The international programme on "More and better jobs for women" (1997-2000) represents a major ILO response to the call of the Beijing Declaration for the United Nations agencies to fully commit themselves and contribute to the successful implementation of the Platform for Action. The international programme is designed to address issues of global concern in a comprehensive and integrated manner with strong and distinct national and regional characteristics and with the objective of improving women's status in employment in both quantitative and qualitative terms. While continuing to implement a mainstreaming strategy on gender issues to ensure integration of gender concerns into all ILO programmes and projects, the ILO follow-up action will focus on four key areas: productive employment and poverty eradication; working conditions and social protection; international labour standards; and strengthening of organizations and institutions.

(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

40. The Plan of Action for Women in Development (1996-2001) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), adopted by the FAO Conference in November 1995, represents the organization's framework for implementing the Platform for Action of the Conference in its mandated areas. The FAO Plan was designed to increase the mainstreaming of women in development and gender concerns in the work of the organization.

(c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

41. At the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference, the member States of UNESCO adopted six resolutions that outlined the scope of the organization's work on gender-related issues and committed the secretariat: resolution 1.13, on the elimination of discriminatory stereotypes of women; resolution 4.7, on the Toronto and Beijing platforms for action on women and the media; resolution 5.15, on Women's contribution to a culture of peace; resolution 5.16, on UNESCO's contribution to the improvement of the status of women; and resolution 20.5, on revision of UNESCO's basic texts for the purpose of removing all sexist language and to ensure the use of neutral terminology and wording. In resolution 5.16, it is stated that among the 12 critical areas of concern, a number clearly relate to the UNESCO fields of action: unequal access to education; peace; the media; women's contribution to the management of natural

resources and environment; the girl child with regard to access to education and literacy.

42. In response to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: What happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women?" (see A/50/509) the Director-General of UNESCO set out the organization's commitment to the implementation of the inspector's recommendations and thus the Beijing Platform for Action (149 EX/31 of 13 March 1996). The Executive Board took note with satisfaction of the findings and recommendations contained in the report and of the Director-General's comments thereon.

(d) World Health Organization

43. The health issues included in the Platform for Action were already part of the Ninth General Programme of Work of WHO and technical programmes have continued with their activities as planned although, given current resource constraints, substantial additional funding is not anticipated. In response to the Fourth World Conference on Women, WHO has focused particularly on violence against women, reproductive health and elimination of female genital mutilation. The WHO Global Commission on Women's Health continues to make policy makers aware of women's health issues, and to advocate for promotion of those issues within all development plans and at the international level.

(e) United Nations Industrial Development Organization

44. The Sixth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), held in Vienna in December 1995, adopted resolution GC6/Res 5 on the integration of women in industrial development. This resolution states, inter alia,

> "Reaffirming the renewed importance of the integration of women in industrial development in the context of the UNIDO response to the Platform for Action ...
>
> "1. Requests the Director-General:
>
> ...
>
> "(b) to contribute to the implementation of the sections of the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, as relevant to UNIDO mandates and to develop a specific follow-up plan of action for UNIDO;".

45. In implementing the resolution, UNIDO has developed a specific "High priority programme" on "Women entrepreneurship development: for a more meaningful and visible contribution to industrial development" to be carried out on a priority basis in Africa and least developed countries. So far, UNIDO has secured initial funding from non-regular budget resources for the implementation of the programme in three countries, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal.

3. Other United Nations intergovernmental bodies

46. The International Law Commission, at its forty-eighth session in 1996, completed its work on the Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind. Articles 17 (definition of the crime of genocide), 18 (definition of crimes against humanity), and 20 (definition of war crimes) may be noted here as they include and address situations of particular concern to women. Article 17 includes in the crime of genocide the imposition of measures intended to prevent birth within the group; article 18 includes provisions that rape, enforced prostitution and other forms of sexual abuse constitute prohibited acts under this article; and article 20 prohibits outrages upon personal dignity in violation of international humanitarian law, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault.

47. In addition, the commentary accompanying these articles refers repeatedly to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to the Committee's General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women. The treatment of women in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and in Haiti are cited in the commentary to illustrate the types of situations that led the Commission to include the above-mentioned provisions in the three articles.

C. Follow-up in the United Nations system

48. The secretariats of organizations of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, have taken steps to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action since the last report to the General Assembly.

49. In his report to the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/82), the Secretary-General reported on efforts undertaken by organizations of the United Nations system through the inter-agency system to address implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. A non-inclusive sample of additional information on efforts by organizations of the United Nations system that are particularly relevant to mainstreaming and to coordinated inter-agency follow-up is presented below.

1. Office of the Secretary-General

50. Meetings have been convened of the three working groups established in February 1996 by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on gender issues, the Working Group on Policy Issues and Research, convened by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, assisted by the Acting Director of INSTRAW; the Working Group on Gender Balance in the United Nations, convened by the Focal Point on the Status of Women in the United Nations Secretariat, Office of Human Resources Management; and the Working Group on Operational Activities convened by the Director of UNIFEM. The working groups are advisory to the Assistant Secretary-General and comprise representatives of offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as from the United Nations funds and programmes with headquarters in New York. Among the issues

discussed were the recent activities of ACC and ICSC on gender balance; mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the work of the Organization; performance indicators of progress achieved in equality for women; documentation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned on operationalizing gender-sensitive development, and proposals for the work of the ACC Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

2. Department of Public Information

51. At the twenty-second session, held 3-5 July 1996, of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, a subsidiary body of ACC, the issue of follow-up to the cycle of international conferences on development issues (1994-1996) was discussed. In the light of the very positive collaboration experienced by members of the Joint Committee through the Task Force on Information Activities for the Social Summit, convened by the Department of Public Information, it was agreed that the Joint Committee would establish a working group in New York which would meet monthly or bimonthly, as required. The working group would collaborate on joint information on activities on a range of issues of concern to the Joint Committee including follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Membership of the Joint Committee comprises the heads of the public information offices of the programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system. Its secretariat is the Department of Public Information.

3. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

52. An expert group meeting for the ESCAP region on promoting women's rights as human rights was held from 7 to 9 August 1996. Through regional and country studies, and expert consultations, policy recommendations were formulated to promote women's equal rights and eradicate violence against women.

53. A regional meeting to strengthen national machineries for the advancement of women will be held from 16 to 19 September 1996. The meeting will cover such topics as strengthening structures and strategic functions, mainstreaming gender concerns into the policy agenda, and working with empowering constituents.

54. ESCAP will convene the second meeting of the Inter-agency Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women in October 1996.

55. ESCAP collaborates actively with other partners of development, namely, intergovernmental and subregional organizations such as the South Pacific Commission, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, especially the Asian Development Bank, and research institutions. Development of a database on non-governmental organizations working on women in development issues in the ESCAP region is being undertaken.

56. A project starting in August 1996 will assist non-governmental organizations in South Asia in their information activities through the preparation of information kits on the Beijing Platform for Action and the

Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region in local languages.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

57. In October 1995, an Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender was formally established by the Inter-agency Coordination Group in Amman. Its first task is to follow up on the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Task Force will provide technical assistance and backstopping to the Arab Regional Conference: Beijing Year One, to be held at Amman from 25 to 29 September 1996. In particular, the Task Force on Gender will be responsible for preparing a coordinated integrated, time-bound and prioritized, draft programme for action for review and consideration and adoption by the intergovernmental body.

5. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

58. Various substantive divisions of the secretariat of the Commission have undertaken activities related to mainstreaming a gender perspective. For example, the ECLAC Women and Development Unit, in collaboration with the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), gave a course on "The gender variable in development programming", as part of the postgraduate programme on population and development, financed by UNFPA. In the reporting period CELADE published studies on women on the following subjects: immigrant women and the labour market in Santiago; changes in the family and in the roles of women; and maternal mortality in Latin America and the Latin Caribbean. The Social Development Division produced studies concerned with women's issues on the following subjects: Women and urban work in the 1990s: the significance of the changes in Latin America; equality in education and work; and young mothers in Uruguay.

6. United Nations Population Fund

59. UNFPA has been providing financial and programme support in all areas within its mandate, including health, equality for girls, women's rights and empowerment, elimination of traditional practices that are harmful to women and girls, and prevention of violence against women. A commitment to gender equality underlies all UNFPA-assisted programmes to give women choices, to ensure that women can make decisions that shape their lives. UNFPA is expanding its partnerships with non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations and youth groups. A non-governmental organization committee has been established to advise on strategies for improved partnerships.

60. Within its mandate, UNFPA activities for implementing the Platform for Action complement those for implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The initiatives undertaken are in three main areas: women's human rights, including their reproductive and sexual rights; adolescent reproductive health; and gender equality, equity and women's empowerment.

7. United Nations Children's Fund

61. In fulfilling the priorities mandated by its Executive Board, UNICEF is continuing to promote partnerships in the implementation of the Platform for Action within the framework of the country programmes of cooperation. It will further its ongoing collaboration and partnership with non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, and strengthen collaboration with sister United Nations agencies to ensure coordination, efficiency and synergy in programme delivery. In addition to these priorities, UNICEF will continue its emphasis on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout the life cycle, particularly for the girl child. It will also provide increased attention to gender issues in emergency programmes, capacity-building and promote women's equal participation in decision-making in all UNICEF-assisted programmes.

62. At the country level, within the framework of the country programme, several country offices have worked with national counterparts in the preparation of national plans for following up the national commitments made at Beijing. Specific activities have also been identified and included, on women's rights and girls' education, in the new country programmes being submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board in 1996. Follow-up of the world conferences is included as an important element in the guidelines for the preparation of country programmes.

63. At the regional level, several initiatives have been undertaken, including in the East Asian and the Pacific region, Latin America and the Caribbean region, South Asia region, Africa, Middle East and North Africa region, and Eastern and Southern Africa region.

64. At the global level, the follow-up to the Platform for Action will require greater commitment of financial resources, especially in the priority areas. Girls' education is a priority and resources will be doubled during the next five years. In the country programmes, it is expected that the implementation of the priorities will be matched with appropriate funding for human resources. The implementation of the policies on gender is through the network of gender focal points at the regional level. These networks, which were very active in the preparatory process to the Beijing Conference and in the organization of the regional conferences, will continue to play an active role. The appointment of an additional Professional staff member at headquarters will facilitate the planning and monitoring of implementation of the Platform for Action.

8. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

65. As a follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is in the process of formulating a project proposal on gender, poverty, and well-being, for which funding is being sought.

9. World Food Programme

66. The World Food Programme (WFP) formulated, in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, its commitments to the Platform for Action in order to provide the Programme with gender-specific goals to reduce disproportionate effects of hunger and poverty on women in comparison to men. The commitments address areas in which the Programme can make a difference, that is, (a) unequal access to food resources, and (b) unequal access to longer-term assets and value-added income-earning opportunities.

67. WFP is holding its managers accountable for their contributions in meeting the commitments. In order to integrate action into programme management, country offices and headquarters divisions were asked to develop gender action plans. A task force composed of senior managers in headquarters and five field offices guided the process. Focal points in units and bureaux ensured that responsibilities were met.

68. On the basis of the submitted gender action plans, WFP is earmarking human and financial resources to strengthen the institutional capacity of staff and counterparts to work for gender equality in benefits and beneficiaries of WFP-supported activities. It involves the development of analytical tools, training in gender-sensitive design, planning, implementation and monitoring and reporting, exchange of experience, information and advice, improved guidance and procedures.

10. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

69. The International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) (ITC) is the focal point within the United Nations system for technical cooperation in trade promotion and export development.

70. The Joint Advisory Group is the governing body of ITC. Recent sessions of the Group, both prior to and following the Fourth World Conference on Women, reaffirmed the need to focus efforts on integrating women into mainstream trade development activities. In this regard, the Group endorsed the advancement of women as an "issue of common concern" and a global priority for ITC.

71. Following the Beijing Conference, an ITC plan of action for the integration of women into trade development was formulated. The plan reflects the strategic objectives contained in the Platform for Action under chapter IV, section F, which singles out the need for technical cooperation with women entrepreneurs in trade promotion.

72. The ITC women in trade development programme is in the Division of Technical Cooperation Coordination; the Director also acts as the ITC focal point for women in trade development and the programme has the services of an adviser. An interdivisional working group on the subject provides technical inputs and guidance. Given the cross-sectoral nature of gender issues, the programme draws upon expertise from within ITC. In addition, the focal point for women in trade development is a member of the Project Appraisal and

Clearance Committee, and thus ensures that gender issues are integrated into ITC technical cooperation programmes and projects.

73. In preparation for and follow-up to the Beijing Conference, funds were and are being allocated from ITC extrabudgetary resources for ad hoc expertise. Selected specialized projects of a catalytic nature, for example, research into market access conditions of African businesswomen in the new international trade context, and the formulation of a programme of assistance and preparation of a handbook on women entrepreneurship and trade), are also ongoing.

11. International Labour Organization

74. ILO has also made arrangements for more training activities to take place to strengthen the capacity of ILO staff and constituents in analysing gender issues and integrating gender dimensions into programming exercises and the decision-making process through training on gender issues in the world of work. Briefing and training packages have been produced and widely used in these activities.

75. ILO has taken measures to reinforce the Office of the Special Adviser on Women Workers' Questions, its focal point on women and gender issues, by allocating additional resources for 1996-1997. It has also allocated resources for the development of the international programme in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference.

12. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

76. Since the Plan of Action for Women in Development was approved by the Conference, it has been widely distributed. An illustrated version in several official languages is being prepared for distribution to a wider audience, including donor agencies, government departments, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions.

77. An important element in the mainstreaming efforts within FAO has been to replace the Interdivisional Working Group on Women in Development with a strengthened coordinating and advisory body, the Committee on Women in Development. This Committee comprises the directors or senior officers from each of the eight departments as the selected representatives of their respective Assistant Director-Generals. The Committee also includes the Director of the Office for Coordination of Normative, Operational and Decentralized Activities, who will represent the regional, subregional and country offices, and a representative of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation. The first meeting of the Committee was held in April 1996 and the second in July 1996.

78. The Committee will provide policy guidance and facilitate coordination and decision-making on normative and operational matters relating to women in development.

79. For the most part, the activities described within the divisional programmes of action will in general be implemented through the use of regular and field programme resources. In the case of the regular programme, the indicative resources needed should be stipulated in each Division's biennial programme of work and budget. In the case of the field programme, the needed resources will have to be identified and stipulated in the appropriate programme and project documents.

80. Some divisions have proposed programmes that are more ambitious and will require extrabudgetary financing. Donor Governments will be called upon to give special consideration to financing divisional activities oriented towards capacity-building at the national level in the area of women in development, and to supporting the inclusion of women in development experts in missions and on field project teams to facilitate the integration of women in development/gender issues into mainstream projects and programmes.

81. Progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action will be monitored at country office, subregional, regional and headquarters levels on an ongoing basis through the establishment of monitoring systems by each of the technical divisions, and will be reported biennially to the FAO Conference.

13. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

82. In addition to these special projects, UNESCO's post-Conference actions will focus on mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy-planning programming, implementation and evaluation activities, as well as on the promotion of the active and broad participation of women at all levels and fields of activity, giving particular attention to women's priorities, perspectives and contributions to the rethinking of both the goals and means of development. Guidelines for the integration of gender issues into all monitoring evaluation and programme activities are being developed to fit the needs of programme officers working in UNESCO's fields of competence (education, science - natural, human and social - communication and culture).

83. In order to ensure the coordinated implementation of the resolutions and the above-mentioned new policy objectives, the Unit for the Promotion of the Status of Women and Gender Equality was established, building on the experiences of the Unit for the Coordination of Activities Related to Women and the Consultative Committee on Women. The new Unit is headed by a Director (D-1) and assisted by a (P-4) temporary post. The total budget of the Unit for 1996-1997 is $US 300,000.

84. Moreover, a Director for Activities Relating to Women and a Culture of Peace (D-1) and a Programme Specialist for Activities to Promote the Status of Women in the Mediterranean Region (P-5) were recently designated to develop projects in these specific areas.

D. Reported activities of non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society

85. In its resolution 50/203, the General Assembly encouraged non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of national strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts. At the international, national and regional levels, many non-governmental activities have been taking place in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference. These have not been reported systematically to the Division for the Advancement of Women, but those that have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat provide examples of the widespread response to the Conference.

86. For example, in Latin America and the Caribbean, in a number of countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay, women's non-governmental organizations have organized major national meetings and workshops to discuss implementation of the Platform for Action and to prepare a women's political agenda. Leaders met in Lima in December 1995 to evaluate the role of the region in the Forum and the Conference and to discuss how to build on the experiences gained from the Conference.

87. In Africa, a follow-up meeting to the Beijing Conference will be held in 1996 for southern African countries organized by the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre. The African Women's Media Network (FEMNET), held a follow-up meeting to the Conference in Kenya in September 1996. In Senegal, non-governmental organizations pressed for implementation of laws protecting women's rights. In Zambia, the National Women's Lobby organized a national convention on the role of women in politics and produced a draft Charter of Women's Rights. In a number of African countries, publicity campaigns to inform the country about the outcome of the Conference have been conducted. Uganda will serve as host for the African Conference on Empowerment of Women through Functional Literacy and Education of the Girl Child.

88. Arab non-governmental organizations participated actively in the Forum in Beijing, organizing over 150 workshops. In May 1996, a conference was organized in Washington, D.C. on implementing the Platform for Action in Muslim societies, convened by Sisterhood is Global, to continue discussion on Islamic women's rights and other issues. Five Arab countries held "One Year After Beijing" meetings in Amman in September 1996, including an NGO forum, to develop implementation strategies for regional plans of action.

89. In Asia and the Pacific, regional NGO coalitions have been meeting and have formed groups to monitor the implementation of the Platform for Action. Several post-Beijing forums have been held by non-governmental organizations in India. The Platform for Action has been translated into Hindi and Gujarati and the International Alliance of Women will hold its 30th triennial Congress in Calcutta in December 1996 on "Equal rights - Equal responsibilities". Non-governmental organization women's committees in a number of the countries in the region, made up of representatives of various women's organizations, have held follow-up discussions to strategize the implementation of the Platform for Action. The more than 5,000 Japanese women who attended the Forum and the Conference have carried out discussions and publicized the results of the

Conference in all parts of that country. The newly formed Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities in Hong Kong has undertaken to advocate for women in both education and employment. Women's groups in the Republic of Korea and in Viet Nam have developed concrete strategies to monitor commitments made at Beijing.

90. In western Europe, meetings have been held to organize lobbying efforts to promote adherence to the Platform for Action. The European Network of Policewomen is planning a conference on the role of the police in combating violence against women. Non-governmental organizations have participated in the preparation of several national action plans to follow up the Beijing Conference and a number of non-governmental organizations have used the media to publicize the results of the Conference. In Switzerland, a conference was convened on "Women and the welfare of humanity"; it was attended by women's organizations and representatives of Bahai Communities. One outcome was to hold an international conference in Beijing in 1997 on the theme ethics and their application to family life and society.

91. In eastern and central Europe, women's non-governmental organizations advocated for the role of civil society in decision-making and, in some countries, renewed efforts have been made to establish better cooperation between government and women's organizations. In several countries, women have organized workshops on issues taken up in Beijing to share information and to adapt strategies to their own situation, and newsletters have featured the Fourth World Conference on Women and its outcome. Non-governmental organizations were expected to participate actively in the meeting for central and eastern European countries held at Bucharest in September 1996, co-sponsored by the Division for the Advancement of Women and UNDP in association with ECE on follow-up in the region to the Platform for Action.

92. In North America, Australia and New Zealand, the process of education and information dissemination about the Conference has been intense, including the continuation of the Global Faxnet by the International Women's Tribune Centre and the inclusion of articles in many organizations' newsletters. Women's organizations have featured the Conference in their meetings and forums. An international leadership forum for women with disabilities is planned as a follow-up activity to be held in June 1997. Numerous conferences have been sponsored on women's rights, bringing the message of Beijing home, and on strategies for effective action to ensure the full impact of the Conference. In September, the Association for Women in Development held a conference on "Beyond Beijing from Words to Action" in Washington, D.C. Women who returned from Beijing spread the word by giving talks and by supplying stories to their local newspapers. In Canada, women have been meeting in large and small groups to discuss, strategize and bring the message of Beijing home. The Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) released a "one-year-after" progress report and convened a workshop on "Holding Governments and international agencies accountable for their promises: monitoring and advocacy strategies for advancing women's agendas". Women from all across the United States were expected to participate in a national satellite conference on 29 September to discuss the United States plan to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, organized by the President's Inter-agency Council on Women. In Australia, a conference for young women was held in Melbourne in March 1996 and a conference for women entrepreneurs took place in Adelaide in August 1996. The

Ministry of Women's Affairs in New Zealand has been participating in consultations with non-governmental organizations throughout the country on the Beijing Platform for Action and will report by the end of 1996 on issues of gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes, women's unpaid work, data collection on all aspects of women's lives, actions to benefit indigenous women and girls and commitment to gender balance on all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies.

III. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

93. In resolution 50/203, the General Assembly emphasized that Governments should, as soon as possible, and no later than 1996, develop comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, in order to implement the Platform for Action fully. In order to prepare the synthesized report on implementation plans of Governments and the United Nations system for the Commission on the Status of Women, based, inter alia, on national action plans and any other sources of information already available in the United Nations system (in 1998), as called for by the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all Member States requesting that any national reports that might be prepared be made available to the Secretariat for analytical purposes.

A. Progress in establishing national implementation plans

94. As of 22 August 1996, the Secretariat has received copies of national strategies or plans of action from Denmark, Haiti, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and the United States. The Secretariat understands that other Member States have been preparing strategies but have not yet forwarded them to the United Nations.

B. Next steps

95. The Platform for Action emphasizes the importance of national strategies or plans of action as an essential ingredient in ensuring implementation. Since it was assumed that these strategies or plans would be tailored to meet national needs, there are, at this point, no guidelines for their preparation.

96. In order to help promote the formulation of these strategies and plans in countries of central and eastern Europe, the Division for the Advancement of Women, jointly with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in cooperation with ECE and the Government of Romania, is organizing a Subregional Conference of Senior Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in central and eastern Europe, from 12 to 14 September 1996. One of the key background papers for that meeting concerns the elaboration and implementation of national plans of action.

97. Based on the results of that meeting, as well as other regional meetings on follow-up and the experience of those countries which have completed their

national strategies or plans of action, it would now be possible to elaborate guidelines that could assist other Governments in meeting this commitment.

IV. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

98. With regard to ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, a number of developments can be reported. It may be recalled in this connection, that the General Assembly, in resolution 50/203, requested the Secretary-General to ensure the more effective functioning of the Division for the Advancement of Women in order to carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations.

99. On the basis of a statement of programme budget implications presented at the time of the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 50/203, the Assembly approved an increase in the staffing levels of the Division for the Advancement of Women of three Professional and two General Service posts as part of the approval of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. This has brought the established staffing levels of the Division to those existing in 1985. However, the current financial crisis of the Organization has led to delays in filling several of the new posts, as well as several existing posts that were under recruitment at the time measures were imposed to address the financial crisis.

100. Under the circumstances, it is considered that the budgeted staffing levels, as well as other objects of expenditure, are sufficient for the Division to carry out the tasks set out for it in the Platform for Action and in the General Assembly resolution on follow-up, once the posts are filled. However, it is also considered that any reduction in those levels would impair its ability to carry out the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action.

101. Within its restructured framework, ECA will double its Professional staff at the African Centre for Women from four to eight, and its head will be at the Principal Officer level to facilitate the role that the Centre is expected to play in promoting and monitoring the implementation process. Similarly, gender experts should be redeployed to the ECA multinational programming and operational centres.

102. In the context of the preparation of the programme budget for the period 1998-1999, United Nations departments and bodies will be encouraged to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes in line with the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action, and to identify clearly those activities that are necessary to achieve that objective. It is expected that, in that context, consideration will be given to resource requirements related to the implementation by the United Nations of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, also taking into account overall financial constraints and competing resource requirements.

103. The report of the ACC on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/1996/16) included information on resources being mobilized by organizations of the United Nations system to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. In addition, the following information has been provided.

104. The specific commitment of the WFP to allocate 60 per cent of its resources to address gender gaps in socio-economic indicators is being implemented and is particularly effective with regard to the allocation of resources to the education of girls.

105. UNDP has committed 10 per cent of global funds to the advancement of women. This does not reflect the funds that will be allocated in the mainstreaming of poverty, environment, sustainable livelihoods and governance. Bureaux have committed at least 15 per cent of regional programme funding to gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women. UNDP is exploring the financial implications of attaching 15-20 gender advisers to country offices and will be collaborating with UNIFEM in facilitating the work of resident coordinators in integrated Conference follow-up to the Platform for Action.

106. In addressing the feminization of poverty and the economic empowerment of women, UNDP is strengthening women's access to credit and resources. Supported by the Government of Japan, UNDP is facilitating the sharing of lessons learned in improving women's access to credit across regions, building on the Grameen Bank experience.

107. In terms of UNFPA, the eight country support team advisers on gender, population and development located at the subregional level are providing technical assistance to Governments in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

108. Taking into consideration the Beijing Platform for Action (and in particular para. 87) as well as the recommendations of the "Evaluation of UNESCO's activities related to women, 1988-1993", which was undertaken in view of the preparation of UNESCO's fourth medium-term strategy 1996-2001, the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO established for the biennium 1996-1997 special projects with earmarked budgets and clear time-frames in order to respond to the specific needs of the priority groups (that is, women, youth, Africa and least developed countries) and to facilitate monitoring. Among these special projects, 10 concern women. The total budget for these projects is US$ 2,103,000.

109. In its resolution 50/203, the General Assembly reaffirmed that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, would also be required. With respect to that reaffirmation, the following may be noted.

110. The Trust Fund for the Preparations of the Fourth World Conference on Women has been renamed the "Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Platform for

Action", and a number of new contributions have been received. The Trust Fund is intended to provide resources to promote implementation of the Platform at the international level in areas where regular budget resources would not be adequate.

111. Project proposals have been prepared by ESCAP to mobilize trust fund resources for the implementation of operational activities. These proposals include the impact of globalization on women, empowering women in poverty, subregional promotion of women's rights as human rights, strengthening the women's information network (including the use of new information technology) and promotion of social protection for poor self-employed women.

112. ECA has launched a Leadership Fund for African Women, with a target of US$ 10 million to implement the above areas of focus, of which one million dollars have already been secured.

113. ESCWA is seeking to replenish the Trust Fund for Regional Activities and/or establish a new trust fund for activities on women and the family.

Notes

1/ See "Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women" (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, annex I.

2/ As noted in the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20), (i) the word "gender" had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in other United Nations forums and conferences; (ii) there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage, was intended in the Platform for Action. Accordingly, the word "gender" as used in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women was intended to be interpreted and understood as it was in ordinary, generally accepted usage.